

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03377 100539Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /087 W
-----100819Z 108372 /23

R 100510Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8275
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3377

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, SO
SUBJECT: SAUDI POLICY TOWARDS ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS, AHMED SIRAJ, ON MAY 9, HE OUTLINED FOR US WHAT APPEARS TO BE CURRENT SAUDI POLICY TOWARDS THE VARIOUS ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE SAG IS PUTTING A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO FORCING UNIFICATION OF THE CONTINUALLY SQUABBLING ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE SAG HOPES TO BRING ABOUT A RAPID DECISION FOR UNITY AS THE RAINY SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING AND MILITARY OPERATIONS WILL THEREAFTER COME TO A NEAR STANDSTILL ON BOTH SIDES.

2. SIRAJ SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE HISTORY OF CONFLICT BETWEEN ERITREAN LIBERATION FACTIONS, THE ERITREANS HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEIZE AND HOLD ANY SIZEABLE TERRITORY INCLUDING LARGER CITIES AND TOWNS. THEY HAD LARGELY BEEN CONFINED TO CARRYING OUT HIT-AND-RUN ATTACKS ON THE ETHIO-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03377 100539Z

PIAN ARMY. ONCE THE ERITREANS HAD ACHIEVED A DEGREE OF UNITY THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE TO A STRATEGY OF TAKING POPULATION CENTERS AND THEN TO ESTABLISH A KIND OF AUTHORITY (IF NOT AN ACTUAL GOVERNMENT) IN THE TERRITORY THEY CONTROL.

3. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD FOR THE FIRST TIME PUT SERIOUS

PRESSURE ON THE PRESENT ADDIS REGIME. MOST IMPORTANT FROM THE SAUDI STANDPOINT, IT COULD SUFFICIENTLY DISCREDIT THE REGIME TO RESULT IN A COUP. THE SAG HOPES THAT A MODERATE REGIME WOULD TAKE THE PLACE OF THE PRESENT ONE; A REGIME NOT ONLY LESS INCLINED TOWARDS THE COMMUNISTS, BUT ONE WHICH WOULD SEE THE WISDOM OF NEGOTIATING A SOLUTION WITH THE ERITREANS.

4. COMMENT: IF THIS DOES ACCURATELY REFLECT SAUDI POLICY IT ALSO INDICATES A LIMIT TO THE INCREASED SUPPORT THE SAUDIS HAVE TOLD US THEY ARE PREPARED TO GIVE TO THE ERITREANS. IT COULD ALSO BE CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE SAUDIS MAY HAVE RECENTLY SUSPENDED ALL AID TO THE ERITREANS; THEY COULD BE USING AID AS A LEVER TO FORCE THE ERITREANS TO UNITE.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA03377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770163-1125
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770575/aaaacmvs.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7352c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2586387
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI POLICY TOWARDS ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, SO, ET, SA, ELF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7352c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009